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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
Hexham Rural District Council

WITH
Tabular Returns of Mortality,
Housing, etc.,
FOR THE YEAR 1939,

BY
DR. G. PATTON.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
HEXHAM.

To Chairman and Members of the Hexham Rural District Council :—

I have pleasure in placing before you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District for the year ending December 31st, 1939.

This report does not take the usual form, being condensed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health (Circular 2067), and is mainly statistical.

During the last four months of the period under review, we were at war.

A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA.—196,030 acres, which is sub-divided into the following districts :—

Allendale	...	51,833	...	4,662	} Estimated Population 1939 20,610
Bywell	...	46,637	...	7,096	
Chollerton	...	50,534	...	4,957	
Hexham	...	47,026	...	4,523	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
Whole District	...	196,030		21,238	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	

Number of Inhabited Houses, (end of 1939)				
according to Rate Books	...			6,238
Number of Families or Separate occupiers,				
1931 Census	...	...	...	5,513
Rateable Value (formerly the Assessable Value)				
1st April, 1939	...	...	...	£131,793
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1st April, 1939)				£535 10s. 11d

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT :—

The chief Industry of the District is Agriculture. Coal mining is extensively carried on in the Eastern and extreme Western parts of the District. Stone Quarrying is also carried on in the North and South of the District and Barytes is mined in the Fourstones area.

Vital Statistics.

		TOTAL	M.	F.	
BIRTHS*	Legitimate ...	201	111	90	Birth Rate
	Illegitimate	9	5	4	10.7

* *Corrected by Registrar's General Figures.*

STILL BIRTHS.—The following figures are given by the Registrar General and are not included in the above :—

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate ...	7	6	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil	...
No. 30—Other Puerperal Causes		1	...
Total ...	...	1	...

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	79.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...			82.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	31
„ Measles (all ages)...	...	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	2
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		Nil

BIRTHS.—The actual number of births registered in the Rural District of Hexham is 334 compared with 367 in 1938 and 360 in 1937. This number is made up of 176 males and 158 females, and gives an uncorrected Birth Rate of 17.1. The following table gives the uncorrected Births as they are distributed :—

Sub-District	Year	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Both
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Allendale ...	1938	22	11	2	1	24	12	36
	1939	16	20	1	—	17	20	37
Bywell ...	1938	22	24	1	—	23	24	47
	1939	17	11	—	1	17	15	32
Chollerton	1938	24	19	1	2	25	21	46
	1939	22	10	1	—	23	10	33
Hexham ...	1938	130	105	2	1	132	106	238
	1939	118	109	1	4	119	113	232
Total for District	1938	198	159	6	4	204	163	367
	1939	173	153	3	5	176	158	334

DEATHS.—During the year there have been 257 deaths of persons in, of belonging to the Rural District. This is a decrease on last year when there were 301. In the preceding year there were 281.

These figures give a corrected Death Rate of 12.4 per thousand. The following table classifies these deaths, according to their age groups in each sub-district, also into Adult, Infant and Uncertified Deaths :—

DEATHS.—Age Groups in each Sub-District, also Adult, Infant, and Uncertified Deaths.

District	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	Total
Age Group :					
0—1 ...	1	4	6	6	17
1—2 ...	—	—	—	—	—
2—5 ...	1	—	—	—	1
5—15 ...	—	1	—	1	2
15—25 ...	—	3	—	4	7
25—45 ...	6	3	1	8	18
45—65 ...	19	15	15	14	63
Over 65 ...	37	42	35	35	149
Totals all ages	64	68	57	68	257
Uncertified { M.	—	2	3	3	8
F.	1	4	2	2	9
Infant { M.	1	2	4	4	11
F.	—	2	2	2	6
Adult { M.	29	35	25	30	119
F.	34	29	26	32	121

} 257

The chief causes of Death are set out in the following table :—

Causes of Death.				Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	TOTAL
Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	—	1	—	1	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	1	—	—	1	2
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	6	2	—	4	12
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	2
Syphilis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Gen. paralysis of insane, etc.	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer	...	...	...	12	5	4	10	31
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	6	7	5	1	19
Heart Disease	...	...	...	16	24	19	21	80
Aneurysm	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Other circulatory	...	...	...	3	1	4	5	13
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	—	—	2	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	1	1	3	2	7
Other Respiratory	...	...	...	1	—	—	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
Other liver diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	1
Other digestive	...	...	...	—	2	2	2	6
Acute and Chron. Nephritis	...	...	...	3	3	3	—	9
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Other puerperal	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	1
Con. Debility and Prem. Birth	...	...	...	1	1	3	5	10
Senility	...	...	...	2	5	4	1	12
Suicide	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	4
Other violence	...	...	...	2	2	1	4	9
Other defined causes	...	...	...	7	8	6	3	24
Ill-defined causes	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL				64	68	57	68	257

INFANT MORTALITY.—There were 17 deaths of infants under one year of age as compared with 19 in 1938 and 16 in 1937. The Infant Mortality Rate is 79.4 per thousand births registered, compared with 68.5 for 1938 and 60.6 for 1937.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1939.

	Rate per 1,000 total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under one year
England and Wales....	15.0	0.59	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.21	4.6	50
126 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	14.8	0.59	12.0	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.05	0.19	6.3	53
148 Smaller Towns (estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	15.6	0.57	11.2	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.20	3.0	40
London ...	12.3	0.44	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.18	8.2	48
Hexham R.D. ...	10.7	0.35	12.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.00	79

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE OF THE AREA.

Does not differ in essentials from the report of the previous year.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Is similar to that of previous year.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

With the exception of works to bring up to date and increase the water supply at Ovington, no fresh water undertakings have been put in hand in the year under review. Some extensions of mains in existing supplies were carried out.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table gives the particulars asked for in the district. The numbers of those converted from the conservancy system are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Table later in the Report :—

Type	1939	Converted during Year.
W.C.'s	2577	—
Privies	3258	To W.C.'s, 65
Pails	451	do. 2

Apart from Closet Accommodation, no material alteration from last report.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitary conditions, water supplies and sanitary conveniences as in the last report.

D.—HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1939.

	With State Assistance.	Unaided	TOTAL.
(a) By Local Authority	38	—	38
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	—	62	62

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Do not differ materially from the previous report.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspections systematically carried out.

Infectious Diseases, 1934-1939 (inclusive).

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	126	72	107	32	53	62
Diphtheria ...	10	16	48	4	13	28
Enteric ...	1	1	2	—	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	3	2	5	3	2
Erysipelas...	8	13	4	6	4	8
Pneumonias ...	19	17	26	33	26	15

Diphtheria Immunisation, 1939.

	Total number of Children Immunised	Pre- School Children	School Children
Diphtheria Immunisation	263	1	262

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year under review.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1939 :—

Age periods.	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hex- ham Rural District			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulm		Pulmonary		Non Pulm	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
25—35	1	1	1	—	1	2	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	1
55—65	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	4	4	1	—	5	7	1	1

TABLE No. 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during the Year 1939,
and Previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Un- corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non- residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1931...	20740	246	265	12.7	257	12.38	23	30	25	94.3	264	12.7
1932...	20740	281	280	13.5	230	11.0	22	47	15	53.3	256	12.3
1933...	20900	286	260	12.3	251	12.0	30	37	7	26.9	258	12.3
1934...	20750	254	222	10.6	238	11.4	7	44	16	67.5	255	12.2
1935...	20410	337	284	13.9	242	11.8	28	35	15	52.8	249	12.1
1936...	20240	332	269	13.2	238	11.7	22	56	18	66.9	272	13.4
1937...	19860	360	264	13.2	277	13.9	46	50	16	60.6	281	14.1
1938	19630	367	277	14.1	276	14.0	27	52	19	68.5	301	15.3
1939...	*20610	334	210	10.7	239	11.5	23	41	17	79.4	257	12.4

* This figure is estimated by Registrar General for Death Rates.

TABLE No. 3.

Causes of Death, shewing sex distribution, during Year ending
31st December, 1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						M.	F.
Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	5	7
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Gen. Paralysis of Insane, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	11	20
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	12	7
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	40	40
Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other Circulatory	...	...	...	...	...	6	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	7	—
Other Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Diarrhoea, etc., (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other Digestive	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	8
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Puerperal	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	7	5
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	8	1
Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	...	...	11	13
Ill-defined Causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
						130	127
TOTAL						257	

Table No. 4.**Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1939.**

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Smallpox - - -
Chicken-pox - - -
Measles - - -
Scarlet Fever - - -
Whooping Cough - - -	1	...	1	2
Diphtheria and Croup - - -
Erysipelas - - -
Tuberculous Meningitis - - -
Abdominal Tuberculosis - - -
Other Tuberculous Diseases - - -
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) - - -
Convulsions - - -	1	1
Laryngitis - - -
Bronchitis - - -	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms) - - -	1	...	...	1
Diarrhoea - - -
Enteritis - - -
Gastritis - - -
Icterus Neonatorum - - -	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Rickets - - -
Suffocation, overlying - - -	1	...	...	...	1
Inattention at Birth - - -
Congenital Malformations - - -	4	1	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
Premature Birth - - -	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus - - -
Other causes - - -	...	1	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	3
All causes (Certified. Uncertified.)	6	3	1	1	11	2	2	...	2	17
GRAND TOTALS -	6	3	1	1	11	2	2	...	2	17

FOOD INSPECTION, 1939.

UNSOUND FOOD				Surrendered	Seized	Legal Pro- ceedings
Beef (home-killed)	stones	...	...	84	—	—
" (Imported)	...	"	...	—	—	—
Mutton (home-killed)	...	"	...	5	—	—
" (Imported)	...	"	...	—	—	—
Pork ...	...	...	"	14	—	—
Bacon ...	...	...	lbs.	34	—	—
Fruit ...	...	...	lbs.	—	—	—
Other Foods ...	...	...	...	—	—	—

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Section 6 (1) and (4).

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district	...	...	643
Approximate number of Cows kept	...	...	8,450 .

